

Bain

connected to a part of the end surface of the main metal fitting 5, and the other end thereof is disposed to face the center electrode 1. The tip 12 for the center electrode is joined to the basic body 11 by a junction 13 formed according to laser welding. Excepting the fact that an interlayer is not formed, the spark plug of Comparative example 1 is constructed in the same way as in Embodiment 1.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice or disclaimer claim 9.

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 5-8 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A spark plug for an internal combustion engine comprising:
a center electrode including a basic body and a first tip joined to said basic body; and
a ground electrode including a base having an interlayer formed at a predetermined position of said base, and a second tip joined to a surface of said interlayer,
wherein said first tip and said second tip are disposed to face each other, said first tip and said second tip are each made of Ir or made of an Ir alloy,
wherein a thermal expansion coefficient of said interlayer is between a thermal expansion coefficient of said base and a thermal expansion coefficient of said second tip, and the basic body and the first tip are joined by a laser weld.

2. (Twice Amended) The spark plug for an internal combustion according to claim 1, wherein said first tip and said second tip are each made of an Ir alloy that contains Rh of 1.5 to 50 weight % and Pt of 1 to 10 weight %, or Rh of 1.5 to 50 weight % and Ru of 1 to 10 weight %, and said interlayer is made of an Ir or Pt alloy.
